

Abstract 357

TITLE: "Hispanic Women at Risk of HIV/AIDS Through Male Partners of Incarcerated Experience Initiative."

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ISSUES: There is a serious concern regarding the impact and consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Latino community, especially among our women and children. Special groups such as the incarcerated population have been identified as a target for prevention and intervention efforts. However, most of these efforts have been limited, inadequate and not comprehensive enough. In addition, little has been done to further explore and address the additional risks that these types of settings have for the entire Latino community. Furthermore, the lack of adequate HIV/AIDS prevention strategies and follow-up services upon release of incarcerated persons into the community is a major route of risk concern for the Latino.

SETTING: This initiative was developed and implemented for the Southwestern United States.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: HIV/AIDS prevention education providers, correctional facilities personnel, discharge planning programs, HIV/AIDS programs, community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates, women's programs and public health professionals.

PROJECT: A Hispanic women at risk of HIV/AIDS through male partners of incarcerated experience initiative was implemented to further explore these issues and to develop policy recommendations and action agendas to address these issues in the Southwestern Latino community.

RESULTS: 1) Enhanced knowledge of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among the incarcerated population and the potential exposure to Hispanic women, their families and community; 2) Increased knowledge of existing and needed bi-lingual/bicultural resources pertinent to this issue; 3) Successful establishment of an interdisciplinary network to impact this issue; and 4) Cross-sharing and interfacing among 3 separate systems: criminal justice, HIV/AIDS and public health; 5) Development of an action plan and policy recommendations.

LESSONS LEARNED: Convening a Regional Interdisciplinary Forum to address issues of concern for the Latino community is an effective way to mobilize and bring a group of individuals from different systems interested in bringing about change in the Latino community. In order to develop effective culturally based community-driven policy strategies and action agendas, it is important to use a culturally based model that considers and integrates issues and concerns coming from different constituencies, health and human service delivery systems and criminal justice systems. This effort has a potential for replication in other communities of color to address other health issues that constitute a risk for our communities.

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